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## "TOUT CRACHÉ"

In telling the Draper how extraordinarily he resembles his "late father," Pathelin exclaims:

car quoy! qui vous aroit crachié  
tous deux encontre la paroy  
d'une maniere [*var. matiere*] et d'ung arroy  
si seriez vous sans difference. [Vss. 153-57.]

Later, in relating his visit to Guillemette, he quotes himself thus (vs. 427): "C'estes vous, fais ie, tout crachié."

In his "Observations," Nyrop quotes examples and concludes: "*Cracher* est évidemment, comme il ressort aussi des exemples anglais, une métaphore burlesque pour produire, créer."

Although I can quote no examples older than those in *Pathelin*, this locution, in various forms, is presumably of earlier date, and its frequency in English and in Italian indicates that it arose from a popular belief that *like begets like* (cf. "his father's own son"; "like father like son"; "a chip of the old block," etc.). "Why Lord! you might even ha' come to be champion o' England in time—you're the very spit o' me," says father to son in J. Farnol's *The Amateur Gentleman* (1912, chap. i); and in Masefield's *The Campden Wonder* (1907, *ad init.*) we read: "A dear, a dear, he be the very spit of his poor feyther, and he be a sad one, he be." In Verga's *I Malavoglia*, (1888, p. 91) occurs, not *nato e sputato*, but *nato sputato*: "Questo è proprio un Malavoglia nato sputato! osservava padron 'Ntoni gongolante." An example occurs in *Arsène Lupin* (IV, 3): Charolais père to Lupin: "Je vous ai dit: 'Patron, c'est vous tout craché!'" Very few persons using or hearing the expression *tout craché* would have any but an individual notion as to its original meaning, and our "spitten image" (with the older past participle, but sometimes confused with "spitting") seems to me to lead the same kind of life as *tout craché*. Nevertheless, an explanation can be offered from an authoritative source. Montaigne (I, chap. 28) tells of a man who, on being reminded of the affection he owed his children because they had issued from him, "se mit à cracher. 'Et cela, dit-il, en est aussi bien sorty; nous engendrons aussi bien des pouz et des vers.'"

CHICAGO

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